

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07452 211730Z

71

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SUBJ: UNDP - 18TH GOVERNING COUNCIL - ITEM 5: REPORT OF

ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1973: REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS

REF MANILA 7244, (B) MANILA 7109, (C) MANILA 6974

1. GOVERNING COUNCIL JUNE 20 ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS AMENDED
VERSION OF DRAFT DECISION PROPOSED BY US ON PARTICIPATION
OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN PLANNING, COORDINATION,
AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNDP REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS.

2. DRAFT DECISION PROPOSED BY USDEL JUNE 11 WAS CO-SPONSORED
BY GHANA AND NETHERLANDS FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WHOSE EFFECT
WAS LARGELY TO RECOMMEND THAT ECOSOC DELEGATE TO COMMISSIONS
THE FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTING AGENCIES AND TO SPECIFY THAT
COMMISSIONS WOULD BE EXECUTING AGENCIES ONLY FOR "SELECTED"
REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS.

3. DRAFT DECISION RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT FROM ASIANS AND
AFRICANS AND NO OPPOSITION SURFACED UNTIL JUNE 19 WHEN DRAFT
DECISION (CRP/12) PRESENTED TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION. FOLLOWING
PAKISTANI ENDORSEMENT AND PROPOSAL (WHICH ACCEPTED) THAT COM-
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PAGE 02 MANILA 07452 211730Z

MISSIONS ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING AND

COORDINATION OF UNFPA REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS, BRAZIL DEL OBJECTED THAT ECLA DOES NOT PRESENTLY HAVE COMPETENCE TO BE EXECUTING AGENCY. ECLA EXECUTION OF ILPES PROJECT WAS SPECIAL CASE, HE CONTENDED. HE SUGGESTED ADMINISTRATOR EXAMINE MATTER, CONSULT WITH COMMISSIONS, AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL AT 19TH SESSION. USSR DEL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING RAISED VARIETY OF OBJECTIONS, BUT CRUX OF MATTER WAS POSSIBILITY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR UN BUDGET. HE ALSO PROPOSED THAT MATTER BE POSTPONED PENDING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.

4. BRAZILIAN AND SOVIET OBJECTIONS SUPPORTED ONLY BY ECUADOR, WHILE UPPER VOLTA, JAPAN, FRANCE, PHILIPPINES, GHANA, NETHERLANDS, SUDAN AND ARGENTINE OBSERVER SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF DRAFT DECISION. US DEL EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT QUESTION OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AS EXECUTING AGENCIES CAME TO SOME DELS AS NEW SUBJECT. HE POINTED OUT THATN, AT 47TH AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF ECOSOC, OAU HAD APPEALED FOR EXECUTING AGENCY STATUS FOR ECA. NO ACTION TAKEN IN PART BECAUSE OF LACK OF INFO RE ACCEPTABILITY TO UNDP. ECAFE (OF WHICH USSR IS MEMBER) HAD ADOPTED RESOLUTION AT 30TH SESSION CALLING UPON ECOSOC TO ACCORD EXECUTING AGENCY STATUS TO ECAFE. STATUS OF ECLA, WHICH NOW DE FACTO EXECUTING AGENCY, SHOULD BE LEGITIMIZED, HE CONTENDED, AND OTHERS ENABLED TO ACT LEGITIMATELY. US DEL FORESAW NO SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR UN BUDGET IN TRANSFER SOME FUNCTIONS FROM UN HEADQUARTERS TO REGIONAL COMMISSIONS; IN ANY EVENT, THIS WAS QUESTION FOR ECOSOC TO CONSIDER AND OUT OF COUNCIL'S COMPETENCE.

5. DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR (PATEL) SAID QUESTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN GENEVA LAST YEAR AND THEY HAD EXPRESSED READINESS TO PLAY ROLE. REPORT BEING SUBMITTED TO 57TH ECOSOC. UN UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HE ADDED, ALSO FELT COMMISSIONS SHOULD HAVE ROLE WHERE UNOTC DID NOT HAVE APPROPRIATE STAFF OR FACILITIES.

6. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH BRAZIL DEL, AGREEMENT REACHED ON AMENDMENTS INCLUDING PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT COMMENTS IN COUNCIL AND DIFFERENT FRAMWORK OF REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN VARIOUS REGIONS.
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 MANILA 07452 211730Z

AND ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN MODE OF UNDP LIAISON AT COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS. AGREEMENT IMPOSSIBLE WITH USSR DEL, WHO PROTESTED HIS INABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH MOSCOW FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

7 WHEN MATTER TAKEN UP AGAIN IN COUNCIL ON JUNE 20, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (MOLTRECHT) IN CHAIR APPEALED TO USSR IN SPIRIT OF CONSENSUS TO GO ALONG WITH DRAFT DECISION WHILE EXPRESSING RESERVATIONS FOR RECORD. US DEL AGAIN APPEALED

TO COUNCIL TO DECIDE MATTER ONE WAY OR ANOTHER SO ECOSOC WOULD HAVE BASIS FOR DECISION ON MATTER. HE ASSURED USSR THAT IN ECOSOC US WOULD ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS.

8. FOLLOWING FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, USSR AGREED TO JOIN CONSENSUS IN APPROVING DRAFT DECISION WITH AMENDMENT RECOMMENDING THAT ECOSOC TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WHEN CONSIDERING OVERALL QUESTION.

9. COMMENT: WHILE THERE WAS WIDE SUPPORT IN COUNCIL FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF UNDP REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROGRAMS, THERE WAS ALSO UNDERLYING CONCERN RE PROLIFERATION OF UN SYSTEM. FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF DECISION, GERMAN DEL GAVE WORD OF CAUTION CONCERNING SCATTERATION (SPECIAL FUNDS, NEW UNITS, ETC) WHICH SHOULD ALL BE REGARDED AS PART OF PURPOSES AND ACTIVITY OF UNDP.

10. TEXT OF DECISION ADOPTED BY COUNCIL FOLLOWS:

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEWS AND COMMENTS EXPRESSED DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT,

TAKING INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE FRAMEWORK OF REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION EXISTING WITHIN EACH REGION,

(1) RECOMMENDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR, IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONCERNED, ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS IN THE PLANNING AND

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MANILA 07452 211730Z

COORDINATION OF UNDP AND UNFPA ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS;

(2) RECOMMENDS THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, TAKING INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS INVOLVED, CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS ALLOWING FOR THE DELEGATION OF THE APPROPRIATE FUNCTIONS OF EXECUTING AGENCY TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS FOR REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS, FINANCED BY UNDP, IN CASES WHERE THIS IS RECOMMENDED BY THE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED;

(3) RECOMMENDS FURTHER THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REQUEST THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF UNDP BY PARTICIPATING IN THE PLANNING

AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL PROJECTS AND BY ENSURING COORDINATION WITH THE UNDP OF THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES, IN PARTICULAR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY TEAMS;

(4) RECOMMENDS THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR, UPON APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, ENDEAVOR TO MAKE FULL USE OF THE EXPERTISE AVAILABLE TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS BY UTILIZING THEM, AS APPROPRIATE, AS EXECUTING AGENTS OF SELECTED UNDP PROJECTS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE REGIONS AIMED AT REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WHERE THIS IS RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED;

(5) URGES THAT THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES OF UNDP MAKE FULL USE OF THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SERVICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY TEAMS, AS APPROPRIATE;

(6) URGES THE ADMINISTRATOR TO MAKE EFFECTIVE LIAISON ARRANGEMENTS AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF ALL REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS.
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